

Serial No.: 10/756,757  
Docket No.: 28951.2157

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 11-15 and 21, as amended, remain herein.

Claims 6-10 and 16-20 remain herein, but are presently withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants believe that this amendment places this application fully in condition for allowance, and surely places it in better condition for any appeal. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants note and thank the Examiner for acknowledging the allowability of claims 2, 3/2, 4-5, 11-15.

Applicants have canceled claim 1 and amended claims 3 and 21 to depend from claim 2, thereby mooting the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shibata et al. U.S. Patent 6,791,445 in view of Yamanobe et al. U.S. Patent Publication 20030052767.

Accordingly, the application is now fully in condition for immediate allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.2157). If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Parkhurst', is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: November 16, 2006

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